

Application Serial No.: 10/824,602
Art Unit: 2859

Attorney Docket No. 24173.00
Confirmation No. 6405

Amendments to the Drawings:

A proposed drawing change is submitted herewith. Proposed changes are shown in red. The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, previously omitted reference numerals -- 10 --, -- 20 --, -- 22 --, and -- 24 -- have been inserted.

Attachment:	Replacement Sheet
	Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8, 10, 15, and 17, and cancelled Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, and 16. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15, and 17-19 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the personal interview held November 30, 2005. The present response summarizes the substance of the interview. At the interview a proposed amendment to the claims was presented for discussion.

Proposed amended independent Claim 1 set forth A craft stencil formed of a sheet of open mesh material and a coating applied to the sheet. The sheet of open mesh material has a thread count in the range between forty and one hundred ninety threads per inch, such that the open mesh allows particulate material to pass through easily. The coating is applied to portions of the mesh material, such that the coating defines a pattern. In addition, the coating is semi-transparent.

Proposed amended independent Claim 8 set forth a method of making a craft stencil having the steps of providing an untensioned sheet of an open mesh material; applying a single, thin layer of a photosensitive emulsion to one side of the material; overlaying the material with a transparent sheet, the transparent sheet having a pattern opaquely printed on

a surface thereof, the pattern covering corresponding areas of the material; exposing areas of the emulsion not covered by the pattern to light while leaving emulsion covered by the pattern substantially unexposed; removing the transparent sheet from the material; and removing the unexposed emulsion from the material. The photosensitive emulsion is a semi-transparent material.

Proposed Claim 15 set forth a method of using a craft stencil, comprising the steps of: providing a craft stencil, the craft stencil comprising a sheet of open mesh material, there being a substantially impermeable semi-transparent coating applied to portions of the material, whereby remaining uncoated portions of the material define a pattern; positioning the craft stencil on a surface of a workpiece; providing a supply of marking powder; applying the marking powder to the craft stencil, the marking powder contacting the surface of the workpiece through the uncoated areas of the craft stencil; and removing the craft stencil from the surface of the workpiece. The marking powder remains on the workpiece upon removal of the stencil.

Arguments were advanced that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) was no longer valid because the applied prior art does not teach the emulsion as a semi-transparent material. Further arguments were set forth that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) were invalid because the applied combination of prior art references failed to teach the structural components of the proposed amended claims. The Examiner indicated that the

proposed amendment appeared to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) however, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) do not appear to be overcome.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because reference numerals were not shown in the drawings. Applicant has provided an annotated and a replacement sheets of drawing Fig. 2 having the reference numeral 20, as well as 10, 22, and 24. Applicant requests the withdrawal of this objection to the drawings.

The Examiner objected to Claim 10 because of improper antecedent basis. In accordance with the Examiner's instruction, the dependency of Claim 10 has been changed from Claim 8 to Claim 9. Applicant requests the withdrawal of this objection to Claim 10.

The claims in this application have been revised to more particularly define Applicant's unique construction in view of the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and for the following reasons is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 to recite that the emulsion is semi-transparent. Further, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 15 to recite that the open mesh material has a thread count in the range between forty and one hundred ninety threads per inch. With respect to open mesh thread count range, independent Claims

1 and 15 provide apertures in the open mesh that allow particulate material, such as marking powder to pass through freely. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Applicant will advance arguments hereinbelow to illustrate the manner in which the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable from the cited and applied prior art. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 8-11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Rauch (US '464). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied prior art reference to Rauch discloses a silk screen printing method and apparatus for transferring images to a work piece. There is no disclosure found in Rauch that the emulsion of the silk screen is semi-transparent. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art reference Rauch is not an anticipatory reference against Claims 8-11. Applicant has canceled Claim 14, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8-11.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch (US '464) in view of Grippi et al. (US '005). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied primary prior art reference to Rauch discloses a silk screen printing method and apparatus for transferring images to a work piece. There is no disclosure found in Rauch that the emulsion of the silk screen is semi-transparent. Further, there is no disclosure in Rauch that provides an open mesh having a thread count in the range between forty and one hundred ninety threads per inch.

The applied secondary prior art reference to Grippi et al. discloses a pleat pattern layout assembly and method having a stencil with a pattern therein for allowing pounce (or particulate) material to pass therethrough. There is no disclosure in Grippi et al. that provides an open mesh having a thread count in the range between forty and one hundred ninety threads per inch. Albeit, the disclosure of Grippi et al. discusses that the emulsion of the stencil is transparent, and that the application of pounce to a workpiece by passing the pounce material through the stencil, it is noted that Grippi et al., like Rauch, does not provide any disclosure directed to the thread count of mesh material. Thus, there is no guidance or motivation found in either of the applied prior art references that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to obviously arrive at Applicant's claimed structure.

Consequently, there is no disclosure found in either Rauch or Grippi et al. that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the structure of Applicant's claimed embodiments. Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, as amended, along

with Claims 2-5, dependent therefrom, are distinguished over the applied combination prior art references to Rauch and Grippi et al. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this particular grounds of rejection.

The Examiner rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch (US '464) in view of Grippi et al. (US '005), and further in view of Thomas (US '803). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of Claim 6 renders this particular grounds of rejection moot.

The Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch (US '464) in view of Grippi et al. (US '005), and further in view of Cormack (US '267). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rauch and Grippi et al. are discussed above. The Examiner relies on the applied secondary reference to Cormack for teaching a directional arrow disposed on the at least one continuous guideline. The reliance on Cormack appears to be in error. The stencil device disclosed in Cormack is used with a writing implement, not a particulate material. Albeit, the Cormack stencil shows an arrow pattern however, the arrow is not part of the continuous guideline as recited in Claim 4. Applicant notes that in order to utilize the arrow of the stencil, on the continuous pattern, the user would have to manipulate the stencil. As such,

the combination of the stencil of Cormack with the Rauch and Grippi et al. references would utterly destroy the supposed operation alleged by the Examiner because the manipulation of the suggested combined stencil would require undo effort to align and realign the stencil, causing particulate material to be arrayed chaotically over the workpiece surface.

Consequently, there is no disclosure found in either of the applied references to Rauch, Grippi et al., or Cormack that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the structure of Applicant's embodiment of Claim 4. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claim 4 is distinguished over the alleged applied combination prior art references to Rauch, Grippi et al., and Cormack. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this particular grounds of rejection.

The Examiner rejected Claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch (US '464) in view of Cormack (US '267). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of Claim 13 renders the rejection of Claim 13 moot.

With respect to Claim 12, Rauch is discussed above. The Examiner relies on the applied secondary reference to Cormack for teaching a directional arrow disposed on the at least one continuous guideline. The reliance on Cormack appears to be in error. The stencil

device disclosed in Cormack is used with a writing implement, not a particulate material. Albeit, the Cormack stencil shows an arrow pattern however, the arrow is not part of the continuous guideline as recited in Claim 12. Applicant notes that in order to utilize the arrow of the stencil, on the continuous pattern, the user would have to manipulate the stencil. As such, the combination of the stencil of Cormack with the Rauch reference would utterly destroy the supposed operation alleged by the Examiner because the manipulation of the suggested combined stencil would require undo effort to align and realign the stencil, causing particulate material to be arrayed chaotically over the workpiece surface.

Consequently, there is no disclosure found in either of the applied references to Rauch, or Cormack that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the structure of Applicant's embodiment of Claim 12. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claim 12 is distinguished over the alleged applied combination prior art references to Rauch and Cormack. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this particular grounds of rejection.

The Examiner rejected Claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grippi et al. (US '005) in view of Rauch (US '464). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of Claim 16 renders the rejection of Claim 16 moot.

The applied primary prior art reference to Grippi et al. discloses a pleat pattern layout assembly and method having a stencil with a pattern therein for allowing pounce (or particulate) material to pass therethrough. There is no disclosure in Grippi et al. that provides an open mesh having a thread count in the range between forty and one hundred ninety threads per inch. Albeit, the disclosure of Grippi et al. discusses that the emulsion of the stencil is transparent, and that the application of pounce to a workpiece by passing the pounce material through the stencil, it is noted that Grippi et al. does not provide any disclosure directed to the thread count of mesh material.

The applied secondary prior art reference to Rauch discloses a silk screen printing method and apparatus for transferring images to a work piece. There is no disclosure found in Rauch that provides an open mesh having a thread count in the range between forty and one hundred ninety threads per inch.

Thus, there is no guidance or motivation found in either of these applied prior art references that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to obviously arrive at Applicant's claimed structure.

Consequently, there is no disclosure found in either of the applied references to Grippi et al. or Rauch that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the

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structure of Applicant's embodiment of Claims 15, and 17-19. Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 15, as amended, along with Claims 17-19, dependent therefrom, are distinguished over the alleged applied combination prior art references to Grippi et al. and Rauch. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this particular grounds of rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren S. Edmonds", written in a cursive style.

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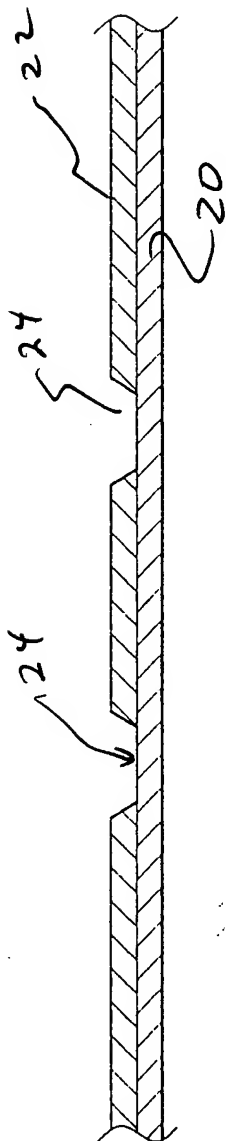


FIG. 2